

REMARKS

Claims 23-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-24 are withdrawn. Claim 23 is amended for clarity and in accordance with the restriction group I, as set forth by the examiner. Claims 25-34 are new, which falls under the Restriction Group I, as set forth by the examiner and as the claims are drawn to an antagonist of a ligand for an epitope or footprint domain for binding integrins. Withdrawn claim 23 is amended in accordance with MPEP 821.04(b). The new claims and the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as discussed above. Therefore no new matter has been added. A first office action on the merits is awaited.

In response to the restriction requirement, the applicants mention that the elected claims of Group I (new claims 25-34) represent only part of invention Group I as set forth by the US examiner, and in particular, relate to the aspects of the invention recited in the previously presented claims 10-12. Applicants note that the examiner appears to have mislabeled the previously presented claims 12 -14 directed to an antagonist of a ligand of the epitope as falling within same invention as claims 1-10 directed to the epitope per se. It appears to the applicants that the examiner has not recognized the difference between these two "products". However, for clarity applicants cancel claims 1-22, without prejudice or disclaimer, and submit new claims 25-34.

New claims 25-34 are similar to the previously presented claims 12-14 but also incorporate features from the previously presented claims on which claims 12-14 were originally dependent.

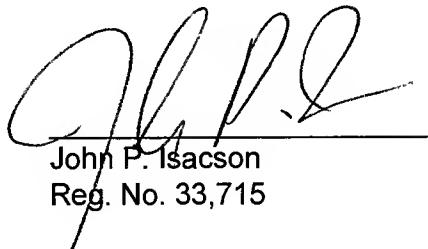
Regarding election of the species, applicants elect SEQ ID NO: 9 (the peptide having the sequence of 'SVPFWVRMS') as the single elected species for the ligand antagonist as recited in claims 25-34.

For the nucleotides, as recited in claims 23-24, the applicants elect a nucleotide sequence (5' - TCAGTGCCTCTGGGTGCGCATGAGC-3') which encodes the peptide of the SEQ ID NO: 9 (see new claim 28).

A basis for the elected nucleotide sequence (5' - TCAGTGCCTCTGGGTGCGCATGAGC-3') can be found in the specification where a combined nucleotide and amino sequence of human mature ICAM-4 in SEQ ID NO: 40 is disclosed. See specification, for example, page 26 of the original application

(PCT publication), in conjunction with page 24, line 22, which states that SEQ ID NO: 9 corresponds to the nucleotide residues 15 - 23 (5'-TCAGTGCCCTTCTGGGTGCGCATGAGC-3') of ICAM-4.

Respectfully submitted,



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